

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 9, 2001

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RIVER TRAIL PROJECT AWARDED \$109,810 MATCHING GRANT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the National Park Service has awarded the City of Binghamton a matching grant of \$109,810. This Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant will be used for the Susquehanna and Chenango River Trail Development project.

"I applaud the National Park Service for recognizing the importance of this project," said Hinchey. "Developing the river trail in Binghamton will greatly enhance that section of the city. I'm happy to see the money we appropriate for NPS going to good projects in the 26th District."

Congress enacted the LWCF in 1964 to provide conservation funds from receipts from oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. In addition to funding federal acquisition of authorized national parks and other conservation and recreation areas, the LWCF provides matching funds to state agencies and local communities.

After failing to provide LWCF grant funding for four years, Congress appropriated \$40 million for this purpose in fiscal year 2000 and \$89 million for 2001. As a member of the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has been a strong supporter of the LWCF grant program.

The project in Binghamton will include the development of a fishing pier, pedestrian tunnel, lighting, walkways, landscaping, site improvements and signage.

"We're pleased that the National Park Service shares our enthusiasm for this creative project," said Binghamton Mayor Richard Bucci. "As we move forward with this project, support from the state and national level continues to grow, which we believe is a significant sign of support."